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SOURCE Zarya Vostoka.

REPORT PROGRESS ON SAMGORI
HYDROELECTRIC AND IRRIGATION PROJECT

[Numbers in parentheses refer to appended sources.]

The Samgori combined irrigation and hydroelectric project, now under construction in the Georgian SSR, requires 370,000 cubic meters of ferro-concrete work and 24 million cubic meters of excavation work. (1) It includes the construction of 84 kilometers of trunk canals through very difficult country, the construction of several dams and reservoirs, and three hydroelectric stations. Many kilometers of secondary canals are being built to distribute the water over the Samgori waterless steppe located north and northeast of Tbilisi and other dry areas west of Tbilisi. The hydroelectric stations will supply Tbilisi with a reserve of electric power. (2)

The project starts near the village of Sioni in Tianetskiy Rayon, where an earth dam will collect a huge water reserve for the Samgori irrigation and hydroelectric system. (3) The Sioni dam, one of the largest earth dams of its kind, will be 71 meters high and nearly 800 meters long and will require nearly 5 million cubic meters of fill. Twenty-two kilometers below the Sioni reservoir there will be a concrete dam to divert the water into the Upper Samgori Canal.

The 41-kilometer Upper Samgori Canal, which will run from Sioni to the Tbilisi reservoir in the region of the Solenyne Ozera, will irrigate 48,400 hectares of land along a 25-kilometer strip between the Kura and Iori rivers. The 43-kilometer Lower Samgori Canal, which originates at the Tbilisi reservoir, will flow westward to irrigate 41,000 hectares of waterless land in Sagaredzhoyevskiy, Kachretskiy, and Signakhskiy rayons. (1) The Tbilisi reservoir itself will be contained by two concrete dams in the north and two earth dams in the south. Because of its size, it is already popularly known as the "Tbilisskoye More" (Tbilisi Sea). (4)

- 1 -

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Three hydroelectric stations, the Satskhenisskaya, Martkopskaya, and Tetriskhevskaya GES, will be built on the Upper Samgori Canal, which is dotted with tunnels, pipelines, aqueducts, and other hydrotechnical installations. These, plus another GES to be constructed at the Sioni reservoir, will supply electric power to rural localities and the city of Tbilisi.

Construction of the Samgori irrigation and hydroelectric power system was started before World War II and was interrupted because of it. Work was resumed on the Upper Samgori Canal and the Tbilisi reservoir in 1947 and all phases of these two projects should be completed in 1953. (1) In September 1951, water will start to flow from the canal into the Tbilisi reservoir, where it must accumulate for 18 months.

In 1951, 51.5 million rubles were appropriated for the Samgori irrigation and hydroelectric project. (4) Work was started on the Sioni water reservoir in April 1951 (3), and excavation work has been completed on more than 25 kilometers of the Lower Samgori Canal (4).

Thousands of Tbilisi workers and kolkhoz workers from many rayons have been working on the construction project. (1) Most of the 2,000 construction workers in the Samgorvodstroy Trust are former kolkhoz members, many of whom have become permanent members of the construction trust. (5) Former workers of KhranGESstroy now in the Gruzgidroenergostroy Trust are doing preliminary construction work of the hydroelectric station and other more complicated hydraulic structures on the Upper Samgori Canal. The Vodproyekt Trust, Ministry of Water Economy Georgian SSR, is responsible for the main installation work. (3) Samgorvodstroy is the organization responsible for the over-all construction of the Samgori irrigation and hydroelectric project.

Though the construction project was little mechanized in 1947 - 1948, machines are now a common sight and there are presently six times as many machines in operation as in 1949. (2)

SOURCES

1. Zarya Vostoka, 27 Apr 51
2. Ibid., 17 Apr 51
3. Ibid.; 8 Apr 51
4. Ibid., 13 Apr 51
5. Ibid., 23 May 51

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- 2 -

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